

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 11087 302041Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 CEA-01 /101 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7916

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, RP, JA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS PUTS THE BITE ON THE JAPANESE

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT MARCOS IS PUTTING THE BITE ON VISITING JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN AND ALSO IS ASKING FOR 100 MILLION DOLLARS FOR OECF FUNDING OF THE MANILA-BATAAN COASTAL HIGHWAY. JAPANESE EMBASSY IS PUZZLED AND ANNOYED OVER THE WAY WHICH THE PRESIDENT IS SEEKING MONIES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS BEEN SOLICITING DONATIONS DIRECT FROM VISITING JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN AND HAS ALSO RAISED THE DESIRE FOR 100 MILLION DOLLARS FROM OECF TO FUND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MANILA-BATAAN COASTAL ROAD. HIS SOLICITATIONS HAVE INCLUDED A PERSONAL INVITATION TO RYOICHI SASAGAWA WHO IS ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN JAPAN WITH AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOME OF SOME 200 BILLION YEN. SASAGAWA HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE AS A "DONG" BELONGING TO THE JAPANESE MAFIA, ALTHOUGH HE WAS A FRIEND OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER KISHI.

3. MARCOS TOOK SASAGAWA TO THE INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 11087 302041Z

AND ON THE WAY POINTED OUT THE SQUATTER SHACKS NEARBY. MARCOS ASKED SASAGAWA WHETHER HE WOULD MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO PHILIPPINE LOW COST HOUSING. (COMMENT: SASAGAWA WANTS TO BE KNOWN AS A PHILANTHROPIST AND LIKES TO HOBNOB WITH PRESIDENTS AND PRIME MINISTERS. HE WILL LIKELY MAKE A CONTRIBUTION AS DESIRED BY THE PRESIDENT. END COMMENT).

4. OKIO MORITA, CHAIRMAN OF SONY, WAS ALSO IN TOWN FOR A REGIONAL SONY CONFERENCE AND WAS GRANTED AN AUDIENCE ON JUNE 26 BY THE PRESIDENT. MARCOS DID MOST OF THE TALKING AND KEPT HIM FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS. MARCOS RELATED HOW MRS. MARCOS FOUND OUT THE EFFICACY OF VTR CASSETTES DURING THE RECENT ELECTIONS AND THOUGHT THAT THEY SHOULD BE USED IN HER VARIOUS PROJECTS. MORITA WAS ASKED WHETHER SONY COULD DONATE 1,700 SETS (WHICH WOULD COST ABOUT TWO MILLION DOLLARS). (COMMENT: MORITA WAS NONCOMMITTAL, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SONY WOULD MAKE THE DONATION SINCE HIS COMPANY IS KNOWN FOR ITS PARSIMONY AND ALSO FACES A CASH FLOW PROBLEM AT THE MOMENT. END COMMENT).

5. ON THE SAME MORNING AS MORITA'S CALL THE OECF REPRESENTATIVE IN MANILA, YUZURU ASAHATA, WAS SUMMONED TO THE PALACE WHERE HE WAS KEPT WAITING FOR TWO HOURS (WHILE THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED MORITA). ASAHATA THEN LISTENED TO THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBING PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROJECTS AND THEN ASKING FOR OECF FUNDING OF ABOUT 100 MILLION DOLLARS TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MANILA-BATAAN COASTAL HIGHWAY. (THIS ROAD WOULD BE PARTICULARLY COSTLY SINCE IT WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH SOME EXTENSIVE SWAMPY TERRAIN).

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PAGE 03 MANILA 11087 302041Z

6. ASAHATA EXPLAINED THAT OECF WAS NOT A POLICY AGENCY AND THAT THE GOJ WOULD ENTERTAIN GOP REQUESTS WHICH ARE COURSED FROM NEDA (WHICH THE PRESIDENT CHAIRS) TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY. MARCOS BRUSHED ASIDE THE TECHNICALITIES AND ASKED THAT HIS REQUEST BE CONVEYED TO THE GOJ (WHICH THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS DONE).

7. COMMENT: THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IS NOT ONLY PUZZLED BUT ALSO ANNOYED THAT THE PRESIDENT IS PUTTING THE BITE DIRECTLY ON JAPANESE BUSINESS VISITORS. ABOVE ALL, IT DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE PRESIDENT CALLED IN THE OECF REPRESENTATIVE (WHICH IN THE JAPANESE HIERARCHY HERE MUST RANK WITH A FIRST SECRETARY) RATHER THAN THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HIMSELF. IN ANY CASE, THE JAPANESE ARE FEELING THE PRESSURES FOR AID AND APPARENTLY DO NOT LIKE THE REQUESTS THEMSELVES (THE 100 MILLION DOLLARS IS ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE SIXTH YEN LOAN) NOR THE WAY THEY ARE BEING MADE. END COMMENT. MURPHY

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